(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
Rice	91.79	93.35	96.43
Wheat	69.35	75.81	78.40
Pulses	13.39	14.20	15.11

* 4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008

(b) and (c) As per the 1st Advance Estimates released on 25.09.2008, the production of kharif rice and kharif pulses during 2008-09 is estimated at 83.25 million tonnes and 4.72 million tonnes as compared to their production of 82.81 million tonnes and 6.45 million tonnes respectively during kharif 2007-08. As sowing of Rabi crops is in progress, the estimates of wheat production during 2008-09 are not available. However, as per the latest trends of area coverage, the total production (Kharif + Rabi) of these crops during 2008-09 is also likely to be higher than their production during 2007-08.

To increase the production of cereals in the country, the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals is under implementation since October 2000.

In order to further increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, by the end of the 11th Plan *i.e.* 2011-2012.

To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is also under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals and equipments, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets, water carrying pipes and training to encourage farmers to grow these crops.

Rules for confirmation of employees in ICAR

†2040. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Group IV employees employed in the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi since 1992;

(b) the number of those employees who have been confirmed and those who are still temporary;

(c) the time limit as per rule, for confirmation of employees; and

(d) by when, these temporary employees would be confirmed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) 78 (Seventy eight).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Confirmed - 77

Temporary - 01

(c) 2 years from the date of appointment.

(d) The temporary employees will be confirmed after the satisfactory completion of probation period.

Shortage of certified seeds

2041. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several States are set to face an acute shortage of certified seeds for crops this rabi season compared to the National Seed Plan's (NSP) assessment of seed requirement;

(b) if so, the details of States facing shortfall and the steps Government is taking to meet the requirement;

(c) whether this will have an impact on the ultimate rabi output/production in this season; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government assesses the requirement and production of seeds before every sowing season *i.e.* Kharif & Rabi. As assessed and reported by the States, the over all availability of certified/quality seeds in the country for 2008-09 is 250.34 lakh quintals against the requirement of 207.28 lakh quintals. The crops wise position is given in the Statement (*See* below). Sufficient, certified/quality seed *i.e.* 144.80 lakh quintals is available for Rabi 2008-09 in the country against the requirement *i.e.* 111.23 lakh quintals as assessed in Rabi Zonal Conference. The overall availability of seed in 2008-09 is likely to be 250.34 lakh quintals against National Seed Plan (NSP) projection of 258.87 lakh quintals.

Statement

Requirement and availability of certified/quality seed

(Quantity in quintal)

Crop	2008-2009					
	Kharif		Rabi		Total	
	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability	Requirement	Availability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wheat			6318212	8768382	6318212	8768382
Paddy	4306009	4744781	1299494	1909461	5605503	6654242
Maize	593653	622639	89929	117206	683582	739845
Jowar	193978	201412	82895	72427	276873	273839